

03500.017748



PATENT APPLICATION

IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
MANABU KATO)
:)
Application No.: 10/725,398)
:)
Filed: December 3, 2003)
:)
For: SCANNING OPTICAL)
:)
APPARATUS AND IMAGE)
:)
FORMING APPARATUS)
:)
USING THE SAME : June 18, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each non-U.S. patent document so listed is enclosed. Copies of U.S. patent documents are not enclosed, pursuant to the Notice published in the Official Gazette dated August 5, 2003.

U.S. Patent 5,557,446
U.S. Patent 5,963,356
U.S. Patent 5,966,161
U.S. Patent 5,995,131
U.S. Patent 6,038,053
U.S. Patent 6,094,286
U.S. Patent 6,133,935
U.S. Patent 6,154,245
U.S. Patent 6,424,446

U.S. Patent 6,469,818
U.S. Patent 6,542,278
U.S. Application Publication 2002/149668
U.S. Application Publication 2003/25784
U.S. Application Publication 2003/43442
U.S. Application Publication 2003/48352
U.S. Application Publication 2003/53185
U.S. Application Publication 2003/128270
U.S. Application Publication 2004/27446
Japan 3254367

The Japanese document cited above was discussed in the specification and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. In addition, an English language abstract for this Japanese document has been located and is enclosed.

Applicant also respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending applications which have been assigned in common with the present application.

(1) U.S. Application No. 08/951,635 (Atty. Docket No. 00684.003135.1), filed October 17, 1997 by Manabu Kato; and

(2) U.S. Application No. 10/633,521 (Atty Docket No. 00684.003510), filed August 5, 2003 by Keiichiro Ishihara, et al.

Copies of these co-pending applications are enclosed

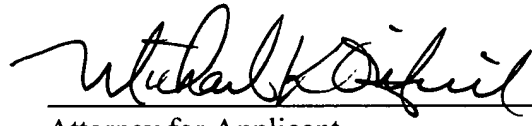
It is Applicants' belief that Japanese priority applications for some of the above U.S. applications may have been published before the filing date of the subject application, making the Japanese publications themselves available as prior art under at least § 102(a).

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. §

1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael H. DeFuria", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 32622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.

03500.017748

APPLICATION NO.

10/725,398

APPLICANT

Manabu Kato

FILING DATE

December 3, 2003

GROUP

Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,557,446	9/17/96	Kato	359	206	
		5,963,356	10/5/99	Kato	359	216	
		5,966,161	10/12/99	Kato	347	258	
		5,995,131	11/30/99	Fujibayashi, et al	347	258	
		6,038,053	3/14/00	Kato	359	205	
		6,094,286	7/25/00	Kato	359	206	
		6,133,935	10/17/00	Fujibayashi, et al	347	258	
		6,154,245	11/28/00	Kato	347	244	
		6,424,446	7/23/02	Toyoda, et al	359	205	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		3254367	2/4/02	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017748		APPLICATION NO. 10/725,398	
				APPLICANT Manabu Kato			
				FILING DATE December 3, 2003		GROUP Unknown	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,469,818	10/22/02	Kato	359	204	
		6,542,278	4/1/03	Kato	359	205	
		2002/149668	10/17/03	Kato	347	244	
		2003/25784	2/6/03	Sato, et al	347	244	
		2003/43442	3/6/03	Ishihara, et al	359	205	
		2003/48352	3/13/03	Kato, et al	347	258	
		2003/53185	3/20/03	Ishihara, et al	359	205	
		2003/128270	7/10/03	Kato	347	233	
		2004/27446	2/12/04	Kato, et al	347	228	
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